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Fifth Committee
Agenda item 131
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Committee following informal consultations

Procurement

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/14 of 29 October 1999, 55/247 of 12 April 2001, 57/279 of 20 December 2002, 58/276 and 58/277 of 23 December 2003, 59/288 of 13 April 2005, 60/1 of 16 September 2005 and 60/260 of 8 May 2006, section VII of its resolution 60/266 of 30 June 2006, its resolution 61/246 of 22 December 2006, section XIX of its resolution 61/276 of 29 June 2007, its resolution 62/269 of 20 June 2008, section IV of its resolution 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and its resolution 68/263 of 9 April 2014,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations procurement activities[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Having also considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of long-term agreements in procurement in the United Nations system[3] and the related note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

[1] A/69/710.
[2] A/69/809.
[3] A/69/73.
[4] A/69/73/Add.1.

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3. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations procurement system to be transparent, open, impartial and cost-effective, based on a competitive procedure and fully reflecting the international character of the United Nations;

4. *Stresses* that best value for money; fairness, integrity and transparency; effective international competition; and the interest of the United Nations remain the four general principles for United Nations procurement, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that those principles are adhered to in all United Nations procurement activities;

5. *Recognizes* the progress made and the key initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to advance a strategic approach to procurement and enhance the acquisition process for critical requirements, and requests the Secretary-General to continue such initiatives;

6. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to provide information, in his future reports on this subject, on the impact of Umoja on the procurement process, including the elimination of duplicate procurement processes;

7. *Notes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to establish the supply chain module in Umoja, also notes the improved governance of procurement functions to include procurement operations in peacekeeping missions, special political missions, offices away from Headquarters and tribunals while establishing a clear responsibility and accountability framework, and requests the Secretary-General to provide enhanced visibility of information on vendors that are awarded contracts and purchase orders;

8. *Recalls* paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to address the challenges identified therein with regard to information and communications technology procurement;

9. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the pilot project on the request for proposal exercise, and looks forward to information on the advantages and disadvantages of the practice of using both invitation to bid and request for proposal methodologies in the procurement of aviation services in the next report of the Secretary-General;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 51 of its resolution 65/289, in which it requested that the Secretary-General ensure full transparency in developing the request for proposal methodology for the acquisition of air services, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of this methodology is fair and transparent, as appropriate;

11. *Also recalls* paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and stresses the importance of developing a transparent system in the implementation of the electronic tendering pilot project that gives equal opportunity to all potential vendors, bearing in mind technology challenges in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and requests the Secretary-General to submit an assessment on the pilot project in his next report on procurement;

12. *Welcomes* the continuation of the independent procurement challenge system, the Award Review Board, and its phased expansion to also cover offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and tribunals, and peacekeeping and special political missions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an update in his next report on the development of the Award Review Board, including on the

feasibility of lowering the financial threshold for vendors to submit a procurement challenge;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the overall progress made in strengthening internal controls in procurement, including improved vendor management, with emphasis on fostering a culture of ethics and integrity among staff members and vendors;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee, requests the Secretary-General to ensure transparency in conducting the activities of the Vendor Review Committee, and looks forward to continued reporting on the activities of that Committee in his future reports;

15. *Also recalls* paragraph 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to promote procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, so as to develop a vendor roster that is more representative of the membership of the Organization, and to report thereon in his next progress report on United Nations procurement activities;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional innovative ways to promote procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition at Headquarters and field offices, and to report on concrete measures taken in this regard;

17. *Recognizes* the efforts by the Secretariat to increase the number of business seminars in developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to encourage the entities of the United Nations system to participate in the business seminars in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage interested local vendors to apply for registration on the United Nations Secretariat vendor roster, with a view to broadening its geographical base;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 34 of the report of the Advisory Committee, decides to establish the Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe, Uganda, as a regular office within the Procurement Division of the Secretariat, and looks forward to receiving updates on the functions of the Office in the context of the global service delivery model;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General not to proceed with a pilot project on sustainable procurement at this time;

21. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement joint procurement with United Nations system organizations, and emphasizes that, when it does so, the four general principles of financial regulation 5.12 shall apply;

22. *Acknowledges* recommendation 5 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.[3]